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inated, that seems to flicker, and the larger background appears unchanged. In a longer article in the same *Archiv*, 1886, Hering savagely criticises Exner's phenomena as not new and not illusions of judgment but of sensation, and intimates that Exner has not taken the trouble to study his views, but follows Helmholtz blindly. Exner replies that he himself discovered independently and in another way the central element of Hering's theory of contrast, the influence of one part of the retina by another. While in general a believer in Hering's contrast theory, he finds it inadequate to the explanation of many details.

Handbuch der physiologischen Optik. H. VON HELMHOLTZ. 1886.

The first three *Lieferungen* of an entirely revised edition of this great classical work are received. The first edition, which has long been out of print, was a work of amazing experimental and literary industry and acumen. In the wellnigh a quarter of a century which has elapsed since its appearance, so much work has been done in this field that a thorough revision of it to the end will involve much labor and be of correspondingly great value. We trust nothing will interfere with its completion.

The Dreams of the Blind. By JOSEPH JASTROW, Ph. D. New Princeton Review, January, 1888.

As long ago as 1838 Dr. G. Heermann published an exceedingly valuable study on this subject, concluding from a broad induction that those who lost sight before the age of from five to seven years do not in adult life continue to dream in visual terms as those do who lose sight after this critical period. He also concluded that deafness carried mutism with it before but not after this same period, which was also critical for dream memory of lost limbs. Dr. Jastrow here takes up the general subject on the basis of an examination of nearly 200 blind persons, and while in general confirming Heermann's results, modifies them in essential details and adds much new material in an article of value and interest and with a wide range of suggestive allusion and literary reference. From 100 answers to the question "What is your earliest remembrance of yourself?" Dr. Jastrow found the average age to go back to 5.2 years. At about this age he says there is a declaration of independence of the sense centres from their food supply of sensations. Thus it can no longer be said that when a sense organ is totally destroyed the ideas received by that organ perish too. The writer believes the blind on the whole to dream less than the seeing, but that females dream more than males. Dreams decline from childhood to age, and those of the blind are most likely to be in terms of hearing.

The Writings of Laura Bridgman. By E. C. SANFORD, Fellow of the Johns Hopkins University. Two articles reprinted from the Overland Monthly, 1887.

The valuable reports of Dr. Howe during the most interesting stages of the education of this famous blind deaf-mute are out of print, and Mrs. Lamson did not utilize for her biography the very voluminous journals kept by Laura herself during this period, which Mr. Sanford here has for the first time read through and subjects to a careful analysis which abounds in valuable material too detailed